

## FY 2008 S & PF COMPETITIVE GRANT PROPOSAL

**Applicant:**

Kentucky Division of Forestry  
627 Comanche Trail  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502)564-4496

**Project Name:** East Kentucky Local Forestry Association Initiative

[tad.norris@ky.gov](mailto:tad.norris@ky.gov)

**Project Lead:** Vernon "Tad" Norris, Landowner Outreach Forester,

**Abstract of Project Proposal:**

We are seeking funding to stimulate, encourage, and shepherd the development of local forestry organizations throughout eastern and southeastern Kentucky. These groups are to be made up of, and completely controlled by, local citizens. They are to be "grass-roots" driven in every way.

with agency fellow offering support and technical assistance as appropriate

**Project Description:**

In the past we have focused on the traditional approach believing that the best way to teach landowners how to conserve working forest landscapes, protect forests from harm, and enhance public benefits derived from those forests was to provide assistance from a service forester, "one-on-one," on the ground, and in their forests. We still believe this is the best way to help individual landowners fulfill their forest management goals (and in many cases, simply define those goals)

[REDACTED]

**Evaluation Criteria Discussion:**

**National and Regional Relevance:**

The creation of local forestry organizations is a natural fit with the national themes of “Conserve, Protect and Enhance Forested Landscapes.” In addition, these local groups demonstrate a connection to all the regional priority areas. The more that local people become involved in forestry issues on a local level, the better the chance we have of keeping forests in forests and

communicate the threats to our forests and the benefits from our forests, and the local organizations will be the leaders in “grass-roots” activities to ensure sustainability.

conservation goal. This will guide our allocation of funding. We will have to be careful to not simply support more and more meetings – there will have to be a clear action plan and very well-defined goals. Next, we will measure the addition of new and different partners. When folks who are not normally associated with the traditional forestland conservation issues are collaborating and taking part in our discussions, we will know we are heading in the right direction. Lastly, and this will take a couple of generations, but we estimate an increase in the quantity and quality of benefits provided by the forests of eastern and southeastern Kentucky. We are looking not only to common measurements of volume, species composition, overall

be added growth rates (FIA data) but to an improvement in long-term community economic

viability. According to census data, Kentucky's most economically depressed areas lie within this region. Here, especially, we are seeing our brightest young minds leave the general area as soon as they can make their own way. Healthy, productive forests are invariably tied to healthy, productive economies. A good, local economic condition works against this "brain drain."

**Technology:**

The Southern Risk Assessment, Southern Forest Lands Assessment, state assessments, and the